

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW POLYGALA FROM COLOMBIA AND BOLIVIA

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The description of *Polygala gracilis* H. B. K. published by the writer¹ in 1916 was based at least in part on a confusion of true *P. gracilis* with a closely allied, hitherto unnamed species. The matter is only imperfectly straightened out by corrections made in proof in the description of the same species in my later treatment² of the North American species of *Polygala*. The new species may be described as follows:

Polygala macerrima Blake, sp. nov.

Slender annual, glabrous throughout; leaves alternate, linear, mostly deciduous at anthesis, those of the branches filiform-subulate; racemes elongate, acute; bracts deciduous; flowers "rose purple" or "violet pink," pedicellate, the pedicels wide-spreading or deflexed in fruit; crest multifid; capsule equaling or somewhat longer than wings, oval, about 1.8 mm. long; aril 2-lobed, about one-third as long as the pilose seed.

Stem solitary, erect, 40-80 cm. high, usually with several erect branches; leaves scattered, those of the main stem linear, 1-1.8 cm. long, 0.5-0.8 mm. wide, acuminate, flattish, 1-nerved, erectish, those of the branches erect, 1-5 mm. long; peduncles terminating stem and branches, 1 cm. long or less; racemes slenderly cylindric, 2.5-8 cm. long (the axis becoming 26 cm. long or less), 4-6.5 mm. thick, dense or rarely loose, scarcely or not comose at apex; bracts rhombic-ovate, long-acuminate, about 1.3 mm. long, the body erose-denticulate; pedicels 0.8-1.2 mm. long; upper sepal oval, 1.2 mm. long, erose at the rounded apex, 1-nerved; lower sepals similar but narrower, oval-oblong; wings elliptic-obovate, 2-2.2 mm. long, 0.8-1 mm. wide, rounded at apex, 3-nerved; upper petal obliquely oblong-ovate, slightly erose toward the blunt apex, about 5-nerved, 2.2-2.5 mm. long; keel 2.5-2.8 mm. long, the crest on each side of a triangular sometimes 2-lobed lamella and 2 segments deeply 2-3-parted into linear lobes; free filaments of the lateral stamens about equaling the anthers; seed oblong-

¹Contr. Gray Herb. 47: 99. 1916.

²N. Amer. Fl. 25: 348. 1924.

ellipsoid, obtuse at each end, 1.4-1.7 mm. long; aril 0.3-0.6 mm. long, its 2 lobes oblong, obtuse.

COLOMBIA: Ibagué, 18 Jan. 1853, *Holton* 827 (N. Y. Bot. Gard.); in prairie, Mariquita, Dept. Tolima, 250-300 m., 16 July 1917, *F. W. Pennell & H. H. Rusby* 72 (U. S., N. Y. Bot. Gard.); same locality, 7 Jan. 1918, *Pennell* 3377 (TYPE No. 1,043,766, U. S. Nat. Herb.; dupl. in herb. N. Y. Bot. Gard.); open springy soil, west of San Lorenzo, Dept. Tolima, 600-800 m., 30 Dec. 1917, *Pennell* 3534 (N. Y. Bot. Gard.); dry open hills, Pavas, Dept. El Valle, 1500-1700 m., 24-29 Sept. 1922, *E. P. Killip* 11668 (U. S.).

BOLIVIA: Ixiamas, 28 Dec. 1901, *R. S. Williams* 271 (N. Y. Bot. Gard.); Ixiamas, alt. 245 m., 21 Dec. 1921, *O. E. White* (Mulford Biol. Expl. 2321; N. Y. Bot. Gard.).

In the closely similar *P. gracilis* H. B. K. the raceme axis is finely pubescent, the pedicels in fruit are erect or erectish, and the capsule is noticeably shorter than the wings. Fragments of both species were sent to the herbaria at Paris and Berlin, and compared with the original material of *P. gracilis* by Dr. R. Benoist and Dr. J. Mattfeld. The following specimens are referable to *P. gracilis* H. B. K.

CHIAPAS: 1864, *Ghiesbreght* 861 (Gray Herb.).

NICARAGUA: Grenada, 1868, *Flint* (U. S.).

PANAMA: Chivi Chivi, 1917, *Killip* 3128 (U. S.).

COLOMBIA: Dept. Cundinamarca, 1917, *Pennell* 1809 (U. S., N. Y. Bot. Gard.); Dept. El Cauca, 1922, *Pennell & Killip* 8181 (U. S.).

VENEZUELA: Near Colonia Tovar, *Fendler* 235 (N. Y. Bot. Gard.); La Trinidad de Maracay, Aragua, 440 m., 1913, *Pittier* 5845 (U. S.); Silla de Caracas, 1874, *Kuntze* 1604 (N. Y. Bot. Gard.; det. as *P. paniculata* var. *ambigua* by Kuntze).